

July 2020 Newsletter

the necessity in asking the Father for every single thing that they would like to see in their life, and in life.

Every spiritual blessing, every single provision is available for the Christian who asks God. If we do not have, it's because we do not ask; or we have asked according to our lust patterns. For if we ask God for things according to his will, he will give them to us, or, he will cause them to be here on earth.

I think that we have failed to see that wanting them is not enough. We have to ask for them! We have failed to recognize and believe the importance and significance of the countless old testament and new testament that refer to the people of God on earth asking God for whatever it is that they want: children, a home, marriage, happiness, prosperity, success, fulfillment, their nation under God and Biblical principles, tactical victory over Satan in the angelic conflict, things concerning their community, wisdom, healing of their souls, healing of old wounds, their families, etc.. Many believers, erroneously, have sought to implement the right principles, ideas and desires in their families, communities and nations the wrong way. They have used power, coercion, power politics, force of might, force of will, etc., to do so. And have failed to see, or have arrogantly refused to do so, the principle that one is to ask God for these things, and then let God in his own time, and in his own way, bring them about.

We see this principle fully established in the relationship that the Son had, and has with his Father; not only during his life here on earth in the flesh, but prior to his incarnation in eternity past; at some time prior to all this. It has somehow eluded us how important, how significant the statement was that the Father said to the Son, *"I will proclaim the decree of Yahweh: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron sceptre; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.'" Psalms 2:7-9.* We see that this principle of asking the Father even applied to the Son as well. So if it applied to the Son, it tells us that **this is a universal principle, an axiomatic law at work in the universe; and, that it applies to us as well. It is how things are done.** All things come to us from the Father, who gives them to us in grace, as a present. But we must ask him for them! James 1:5,17,18.

We, the redeemed of Christ on earth, **exist**, and exist as his people, **as the result of the Son asking the Father for us.** A kingdom, a people to rule; a bride, to be with; a dominion; a home to live in; and an area in which to dwell; all as the result of Christ asking the Father. In John 6:37, Christ said that the Father had given him a people, and that all these people would come to him; and that he would never reject them. We also see that the holy spirit was given to us as the result of the Christ asking the Father. John 14:16. And John 17 is the Lord's prayer to the Father asking him for so many things concerning us: for the Father to protect us, v.11; that we would be one, v.11; to protect us from the evil one, v.15; that we would be sanctified by doctrine, v.16; that we would live with Christ and see his glory, v.24.

This principle of asking the Father for the things that we want, which is not to be limited to just material things, has been handed down to us by Christ. *"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name",* John 16:23b. And, *"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it."* John 14:3,4.

Asking the Father is much more important than we ever imagined. We know that we are to go to

God in prayer, but have not seen the significance that nothing happens until we do. I don't know all the reasons why we are to go to the Father and ask him for everything that we need, but that's what he has established. Death was at David's door, and nothing was done about it, until David prayed to the Father asking him for help. *"In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."* Psalms 18:6.

But it is very clear that we must ask the Father, (in the name of Jesus), for all it is that we need and would like to do in life. From standing against Satan in the angelic conflict, to our soul's needs, to the fulfilling of our desires. **For we have seen that the Father said to the Son, "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."** Psalms 2:8. And Christ did ask his Father for these things, and after going through the suffering necessary to get them, he has and will receive all that the Father promised him. **It's interesting that the Father brought this matter up, showing that was his desire too.** Remember, that it was the Father that planned the plan, but it was the son who executed it.

Christ asked his Father for us, and many other wonderful things, and the Father granted them. But it was the Son who worked it out, doing what was necessary to accomplish it. And so **we need to see this principle that governs the universe and it's importance**, believe it; and act upon it in faith by asking the Father for everything that we want and need in life.

The people of God are facing very difficult times today, especially here in America. A subtle move has been underfoot for decades to undermine the fabric of our society and all it's institutions: our national government, the families, our schools, and even our churches. Drugs, crime, violence, the disintegration of family values and the family, socialism, internationalism, ever-increasing tyranny of government; to the place that it is becoming evident to all that something is wrong! And the believer wonders, where will it all end? What can be done about it? What can he do? What can he do to stop it from destroying his family, his church, and his nation?

We know that one answer is for believers in Christ to **repent. Which really speaks of having a change of mental attitude towards the Word of God, his grace and faith living.** But there is another answer that lies in the unique provision of the Father for every believer, and that is to come to him in faith with his requests. And by doing so, we will be able to survive and even prosper through these difficult times.

The problems that separated us from God have been dealt with by Christ's atoning death on the cross for our sins, and his victorious resurrection from the dead. **And to us who have believed on Christ, we now have his righteousness making us totally acceptable to God.** And we also have our great high priest in heaven at the right hand of God constantly interceding on our behalf, due to the problem of ongoing sin in our life. So, the access to God in heaven has been opened up for us, making it possible for us to go directly to the Father, to the throne of grace, with our requests. But having access, and taking advantage of it are two different matters. God has every spiritual blessing, and every need already provided for, for every believer in Christ, but they need to come to him in faith for it.

Why do you suppose then, that we are told to approach the throne of grace, with confidence, to find help in our time of need? Doesn't God know what we need? What we want? The good that we'd like to see. Cannot he read our minds? The answer is a resounding yes to all of them! **But we still have to ask the Father for them.** *"You have not, because you ask not"*, James 4:2b. This puts it concisely; and by putting it differently; "If you want to have, you have to ask the Father". *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving's, present your requests to God."*

Philippians 4:6.

Faith comes in understanding what we need to do; what we have to do; and in motivating us to do it. **Humility** is also a factor, because in asking the Father, it puts us in our place in the scheme of things. God is our Father; but he is still God. He has the things that we want and need, and he wants to give them to us in his grace. But we have to ask him for them.

Is it food, shelter, clothing, transportation that we need? Then ask the Father. Is it spiritual strength, wisdom, answers for our souls that we need? Then ask the Father. Is it the salvation of our family and friends, and the healing of hurt relationships that we'd like to see? Then ask the Father. Is it the stopping of evil, and the rise of doctrine, grace and faith that we'd like to see in our nation? Then ask the Father. Are there places you'd like to go, people you'd like to see, things you'd like to do? Then ask the Father. Are you under so much pressure, attacked by the devil on every front; and would like to deal with it successfully, conclusively, victoriously? Then ask the Father. Would you like to have a successful, happy family unit? Then ask the Father. Would you like to be used of the Lord, to serve him and glorify him? Then ask the Father. Would you like to see your community sold out for Christ and a strong hold for doctrine? Then ask the Father. Would you like to see God prosper you and your business? Then ask the Father. What is it that you would like to see? To see done? To see accomplished? Is it a good thing? Then ask the Father for it, in faith, in the name of Jesus.

60. Jesus Christ, the basis of our faith in God.

When **Stephen**, the first martyr of the church, addressed the high priest and the men of Israel, Acts 7:1-60, he gave to them a concise and accurate history of the nation of Israel from the perspective of truth; including their arrogance and rebellion against *Yahweh*. Upon hearing this, they became filled with rage against him, and dragged him out to stone him. At the moment of their rage, he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God in all his glory. This was the most amazing thing that one could see or imagine. And it has serious ramifications for all the people living on earth. The fact that Jesus was standing at the right hand of God, showed that Jesus had not only gone into heaven, but that he had been accepted into the presence of the majesty on high. And above that, he had not only gone into his presence, but was seated at his right hand! And remember, this was not too long after the crucifixion of Christ.

Since recorded history, the position of being at the right hand of an individual meant that one had been accepted into a **place of favor and power**. He was respected, loved, valued, he was in a position of power, and he was above all the other people. The individual at the right hand was now the recipient of the other person's favor and blessing. **And now Jesus is at the right hand of God on high!**

The prophet **Daniel** had a vision of this over 2,000 years ago, when he saw the Ancient of Days, our heavenly Father, enthroned in heaven, and one like the Son of man approaching this ancient of days, and was led into his presence. He not only was accepted by this one ancient of days, but was also seated at his right hand! *"He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."* Daniel 7:13,14.

Christ being seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven is the basis of getting whatever we ask from God. *"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."* John 16:23b. The Father loves the Son and will do whatever he asks. It comes with the position of favor at the right hand of God. *"But I say to all of you: in the future you will see the son of man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."* Matthew 26:64. And, *"No, the*

Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that came from God.” John 16:27.

The Son (the second member of the trinity) left his position in glory at the right hand of the Father to become a man. On earth he fully carried out the Father's will; died for our sins; was buried; raised from the dead; ascended back into heaven; and was seated at the right hand of the Father once again. Only now, he is a resurrected man in a glorified body. This is the gospel concerning Christ. Because of this, and his other positions, such as high priest, we now have access to the father and his limitless grace.

The issue is not who we are, or what we have done. We're so ingrained with our own faults and failings, so much negative viewpoint concerning ourselves; it is nearly impossible at times to get ourselves to believe that God would really hear our prayers, let alone answer them. But it's not about us! It's about Christ! The answering of our prayers, **the grace that we wish to receive, does not come to us because of who and what we are; good or not. It comes to us because Christ is seated at the right hand of God.** We lack confidence in this matter, because we have no confidence in ourselves. And that's the problem! We are not to have confidence in ourselves! We are to have it in Christ! So when we go to God in prayer, we should be ever mindful, that it is who and what Christ is that counts with God, not who and what we are.

When we believed on Christ as our savior, we also believed in the Father. In fact, there is no true faith in God, unless one has believed on Christ. When we believed on Christ, we also became related to the Father. **Because we are related to Christ, we have access to the Father.**

All things come from the Father, both in their origin, and in permission. It was he who planned our eternal salvation, and created us. *“Every good and perfect gift is from above; coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all that he created.” James 1:17,18.*

Christ has not only become the basis of our relationship with the Father, and our faith towards the Father, but the example of how we are to live before the Father. He knew that the Father had a plan for his life, a perfect plan. And it was his desire to do everything that the Father wanted him to do. He also knew that the Father had provided everything that he would ever need through his walk in this life, as he accomplished the Father's will. His only desire was to serve the Father, glorify him and do his will. He knew that the Father's plan, his provisions and power would sustain him in this life. He knew that the Father would give him the strength to go on, even sustaining him on the cross.

Christ was constantly talking to the Father in prayer, fellowshiping with him, placing his requests before him. He was in continuous contact with him; and his mind, heart and spirit were constantly oriented towards him. Often, he would go off by himself to get away from people, even those closest to him, so that he could commune with his Father and to be refreshed in his presence. Christ loved the Father, and loved to do his will on earth. And this should be the challenge and motivation to us. If we say that we love Jesus Christ, and want to do his will, then we will want to do the will of his Father.

Now that we have come to Christ as our Savior, we should have confidence towards the Father, as he did, as we observe his faith towards the Father. So often we live our lives in fear turning from one thing to another, from our feelings to our minds, from people to the government, from this thing to that thing to help us, to take care of us, to provide for us in this life. Instead, we should follow Christ's example and put all of our trust in the Father to take care of us. As Paul wrote, *“And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19.* In fact, Christ's whole

life on earth and what happened to him as the result of all this, both at that time and afterwards, validated that whole approach of the believer living his life on earth by faith in God and faith in his Word. It tells us that this approach of faith in God the Father is trustworthy, you can depend upon it, it won't let you down, (even though at times you may think that God has let you down); you can depend upon the faith approach, especially when you see the outcome of it.

We are fearful creatures, full of insecurity, despite our claims to the opposite. And we wonder how to live life, how we can make it. Will we be able to make it? What can I hang on to make it through life? An idol? A lucky charm? My own abilities? The government? My family? My friends? God? What? And here, once again, we go back to Christ. How did he live his life? And what was the outcome of his life? Did he make it? And to what degree of success did he have? We know that he was exalted to the throne of God, and given heaven and earth to rule over, plus infinite wealth and blessing. So we can see that he not only made it, but was infinitely successful. So, how did he do it? What approach did he use? **It was through faith in the Father, faith in his Word, faith in his plan, faith in his power and faith in his provisions. This shows us that the faith approach is not only totally reliable, but the guarantee of success. It has his validation on it.**

61. Faith, the response to electing grace.

The question is, where does faith come from? How do we get it? How is it that it comes to be? What is it that prompts faith in us? Can a person walking around simply muster up faith? Or does it come as a response to something? **And is there a difference between the common kind of faith that all people have, and the faith that is necessary for salvation?**

The premise is that the faith necessary for salvation does not lie in the will of man that he may exercise it when, and if he pleases, **but is there as the response to God's electing grace.** That is, when God, through the Holy Spirit, deals personally with the individual he has chosen, that individual responds in faith to God's electing grace.

There are many examples of this in both the old and new testaments. One is in 1 Thessalonians 1:4, where it says, "*Brothers loved by God, we know that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.*" We see here, and in practice, that there are two different phenomenon's connected with the gospel. The same words go out, but to one group there is power, the Holy Spirit and deep conviction; while with the other group there isn't the same reaction.

The Holy Spirit is working with those the Father has chosen, and there is power and deep conviction. As Paul wrote, "*We know that he has chosen you*", **because these things were there, power and the working of the Holy Spirit.** One communicator will be addressing a group of people, who he has no knowledge of personally, or their standing with God; and the gospel goes out to all the ears of the people there. But to some there is conviction, the penetrating power of the Holy Spirit, and the response of faith to the words of the living God. While to the others, there is none.

It must be noted that there was no faith, no response, no changed life, **until God took the first step in initiating the action, and that towards the individuals that he had chosen.** And with those individuals, there was power, conviction and the Holy Spirit. As we see with Abraham, who was living his life on earth, as all the others were, no faith, no obedience to God, until God sovereignly appeared in his life and Abraham then believed in the Lord. And from that, his faith resulted in obedience, and Abram left Ur of the Chaldees to go down to the land that God would show him. Genesis 12:4;15:6.

And it was the same with the Apostle Paul. But with him he was even persecuting the church of Christ, until Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus and sovereignly saved him. Acts 9.

In all these instances and more, **we see the individual responding in faith to the electing grace of God.** They were going along their own way in life, with nothing happening, no faith, no response to God, they weren't even seeking the Lord. Nothing! They may have been casually interested in religion, or in one of the esoteric areas, but they had no faith in the true God, nor were they seeking after him. As it says in Romans 3:11b, *"There is no one who seeks God."* Nothing happened in their relationship with God, until he initiated the action towards them in his grace, to which they responded in faith. *"Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy."* Romans 9:18.

It's just like the matter of divine revelation, where God reveals himself, his will, his character, his Words to man; men living on the earth every day by the thousands, by the millions, for hundreds and hundreds of years. What do they know of God? Basically nothing! Only what they can deduct about him in nature, in the world that he has created. But beyond that nothing! And why is that? Because he had chosen not to reveal himself. And unless he personally initiated the action towards us to reveal himself to us, then there would be no way that we could know anything about him. And so mankind, and more specifically the elect, would know very little about God, until he decided to reveal himself, for we could not reveal him.

And so, **this whole matter of to whom he would reveal himself, when he would do it, where he would do it, how he would do it, and what he would tell us about himself, was left solely to his divine sovereignty.** And all we could do was wait! God has not told us everything he knows, but has told us everything that he wants us to know; whatever the period of time that we are living in on earth. And he has closed out his written communication of the Word in 96ad, with the completed canon of scripture.

The Apostle Peter wrote that we had received our faith, this ability to believe on Jesus Christ as our Savior. *"To those who through the righteousness of our God and savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours."* 2 Peter 1:1a. And again that we are the recipients of the electing grace of God, *"To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bythinia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father; through the sanctifying work of the spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood."* 1 Peter 1:1,2. This foreknowledge of God, by the way, is where God has the knowledge of what is going to happen in the future, because he has decided it to happen, not because he looks down the future and happens to see what will happen. **In the case of the elect, it means that God's foreknowledge of who will come to Christ is based on the fact that he has chosen them to come to Christ, not some mere happenstance of seeing who will come to Christ in the future).**

And the Apostle James wrote, *"Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom that he has promised those who love him?"* James 2:5.

And even when confronted by trials, it's so that our faith will come through purified like gold. The trials have a direct relationship to our faith. In fact, it says it is ordained that we will not only believe on Jesus Christ, but suffer for his sake, Philippians 1:29. Also. *"For a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire- may be proven genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor*

when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:6,7.

We think that these trials are going to destroy us; when **the only thing that they are designed to destroy is the dross of unbelief in our souls.** We think that we will never get through them, when they are all a part of our forward momentum in the Plan of God. The nature of the trials is such that they force us to exercise faith in the Word of God, so that our faith is not only refined, but it **moves us forward in the Plan of God unto perfection.**

Where we run into a problem is when the trials begin backing up on us, one after another, each one difficult, each one different; one overlapping the other, so that we cannot seem to get out of them, or get our heads above water. It's here that it gets so easy to get into a state of hopeless despair. Faith gives way, and the old sin nature and despair cave in on the soul and the believer is left with a black uneasiness and nagging fearfulness. **But the forward momentum that faith gives will eventually pull the believer out of it.**

James wrote about this principle in James 1:2-4. In fact, isn't it interesting that the very first inspired writing in the new testament, written around 45 AD, was on the subject of the suffering of Christians going through their trials! He told us that we will face very difficult and intense trials, that we will "*fall into*" them. Nothing that we have done; certainly not what we had wanted, or intended, but that we just sort of fell into them. And that there would be all different kinds of them. Isn't this interesting. The very first letter written to the church starts with James introducing himself, then addresses the 12 scattered tribes, then he **jumps right into the subject of the trials and sufferings that believers are going through.** What does that tell us? But then he goes on to tell us why there is suffering, which is for the purpose of maturing us in our faith, and how endurance will carry us through it. Endurance looks at the exercising of faith in the Word of God while in the trial. Which, not only sustains us by giving our souls the energy and strength they need to make it through the trials, but endurance also sustains our forward momentum.

The key, of course, lies not in the volumes of doctrine that we know, but **in the believing of that doctrine.** It is through faith in the Word that we have the strengthening of our souls, and the tactical victory over Satan in the angelic conflict. Sometimes the only way that this comes about is as the result of the believer reviewing the doctrines and promises that he has learned, going back over these things and concentrating on them. Faith in the Word of God provides us forward momentum in the plan of God for our lives, but sometimes we need to remind ourselves of these things to stir that faith up.

62. The faith of Jesus Christ.

In Hebrews 12:2, it says that Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. In the original, "*our*" is not there. It simply says that ***Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of the faith.*** If we look at this from the standpoint of an objective genitive, **it brings our attention to what we believe, bringing our attention to the emphasis of Christ believing the Word of God.**

The word *Author, archegos,* can also be translated as: Prince, Captain, Founder, Pioneer, Trailblazer, and Chief of a Tribe. It has the ideas of being the one who began, or originated something, and participated in it as well. The one who takes the lead in something. It was also used of one who founded a city, referred to also as the hero of the city. Also, one who founded a religion, philosophy, or school of teaching.

When used in a military setting, it spoke of the one who went before the main body of troops to

clear the path of all obstacles, so that the main body of men could follow. He did this by also blazing a trail that the other men could recognize and follow. Concerning Christ, he cleared the path of all the obstacles that kept us from entering into heaven, so we could follow in his path.

It also has the idea of going to a place where no man had ever gone before and desiring to get a group of people to that place. So, one goes on before those people, clearing the path of all obstacles, making a trail, and then leaving signs behind along the way that point out the direction they are to follow - a trailblazer.

So we have: a person who had founded a city, establishing a city, where none had existed before, to be inhabited by a people; the founding of a certain teaching or religion that began with a certain man, such as, Plato, Aristotle, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, etc.; of one who went before the main body, blazing a trail where none had gone before, to bring people to this place.

In this desire of getting a certain body of people to a certain place there are certain problems: 1) the people don't know where this place is, they had only heard about it; 2) they don't know how to get there; 3) they lack the ability to get there; 4) the nature of things is as such that they are precluded from getting there. **If they are to get there, then someone must lead the way, and blaze a trail for them to follow. This trailblazer must clear the path of all obstacles to get them to that place.**

And so we have Jesus, *The Author and Perfecter of the faith*, who has gone on to heaven before us, clearing the path of all obstacles, and blazing a trail for us to follow, so that we might go from earth to heaven; from corrupted flesh to glorified humanity; from cursed sons of Adam to blessed sons of God; from debauched ministers of the devil to righteous priests of the most high God, *Yahweh*.

Now did Jesus just leave us something to believe, or did he have to participate in living by faith also? In the original idea of *archegos* the Founder or Originator, was also a **participator in what he was doing**. So we could say that **Jesus lived by faith and trust in his humanity also, like we have to do**. There are passages in the Bible that indicate that Jesus, himself, trusted in the Father; that he lived by faith. One of these is Psalms 22:8, "*He trusts in Yahweh; let Yahweh rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.*"

The word for **trust** here is *galal*, and it shows that **Jesus had rolled his entire life over on to the Father, which, as we know, resulted in him being nailed to the cross for our sins**. The idea behind *galal* is trusting, of **placing one's existence into the hands of God, with a special view towards the consequences, or results of that action**. The hard part was that he was now hanging on the cross, as the result of that action of trusting the Father. So one could say, "look where his faith got him now." **But wait a minute! God is not through yet; the full consequences have not been brought to life!** Yes he died, but God raised him from the dead. He gave him a resurrection body, one that was eternal and glorified. He took him to heaven; and there he received him to his right hand side placing him in the position of highest honor and favor. And he made him Lord over heaven and earth; and gave him a vast multitude to rule over for his own; and he has infinite, eternal wealth beyond comprehension. So when we say that *galal* has consequences for trusting in God, don't stop half way, but look towards the final outcome of it, where the wondrous results will be in full view.

In Psalms 22:9, the Lord also said, "*Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.*" *Batach*, the word for **security**, tells us that the Lord had made his Father his security, even on his mother's breast; which would be the normal security for all children. We see this trust, even from infancy.

One that we have quoted frequently, and that the new testament has in Acts 2:25-28, is the passage found in Psalms 16:9-11, “*Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body will also rest secure; because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*” This is a **description of the metabolizing of God's Word by faith.**

Where Christ believed the promises of God resulting in inner happiness, even when under tremendous pressure. It speaks of the inner peace and confidence that the Word of God, that has been believed, gives to the believer.

Jesus did not learn this passage of scripture on the cross. He had already known it for some time before the cross. He had read it in the Psalms; studied it; believed it; and knew that it applied to him. **By believing it, it became a part of his soul;** and was one of the things that contributed to his growth, his faith, his confidence and his forward momentum in the plan of God. It was also the thing that stabilized his soul in the midst of the most terrible suffering of his death on the cross.

He said, “*That his heart was glad and his tongue rejoiced, also that his body would rest secure*” in v.9; and then he goes on to tell us why, because the Father would not leave his soul behind in Hades, or Sheol; nor would he let his body undergo decay. He knew by faith, that God would raise his soul up out of Hades, and it would be done before the fourth day, when corruption would set in. In fact, he knew his soul would be raised up on the third day; for he states, “*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the son of man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*” Matthew 12:40. **Jesus knew what the scriptures taught on this matter; he believed them; and trusted the Father to raise him from the dead.**

We see the faith of Jesus again at the moment of his death, when he cried out to the Father, “*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*” Luke 23:46. The word for **commit** is *paratithemi* and is another word for faith, or trust. If one was going out of town, he might not want to leave his valuables behind, so he would take them over to someone he trusted, who had the power to safeguard them, and hand them over to him. This is the idea of *paratithemi*, and Christ handed his soul over to the Father for safekeeping. The most valuable thing about any human being is our soul or spirit. **And here the Lord is about to embark on something he had never experienced before, his own death!** And he hands his spirit over to the Father for safekeeping; obviously, a sign of trust. He even